Pacts with other countries for regulating flow of labour

685. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has entered into any pacts for regulating the flow of labour force into Gulf and other countries where there is no need for Indian Labour; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to apprenhend and prosecute unauthorised agents who are exploiting unemployed youths by extracting huge sums from them with false promises of providing them lucrative jobs abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Unauthorised Agents can not recruit Indian workers for overseas employment. Violation of this provision is a cognizable offence under the Emigration Act, 1983. Whenever, any complaint is received, the same is referred to the Police authorities. State Governments have been asked to investigate such crimes expeditiously.

Provident Fund Linked Housing Schemes

686. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the growing housing needs of industrial workers, Government have drawn up any Provident Fund linked housing plans for their benefit ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes and how many industrial workers will be covered by the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR SHRI P A. SANGMA) : (a) and b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation will be getting the houses constructed for those provident fund subscribers who have sufficient provident fund accumulations at their credit and who are willing to have houses in the areas where houses can be arranged through the agencies like Delhi Development Authority, State Housing Boards, etc. The proposals have accordingly been finalised for construction of 1527 houses as per details given below :

(a) Haryana—200 houses at Faridabad are almost at completion stage.

(b) Maharshtra—1200 houses in Bombay are expected to be ready soon.

(c) Rajasthan—27 houses at Alwar are expected to be ready soon.

(d) Uttar Pradesh—100 houses in Ghaziabad. The construction work is expected to be taken up soon.

The other States have also been requested to work out special scheme for provident fund subscribers or to atleast keep apart a certain percentage of houses in the existing schemes of their Housing Boards, for allotment to the provident fund subscribers.

Foodgrains stored in the FCI Godowns in Punjab

687. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total stock of accumulated foodgrains lying presently in Punjab ;

(b) what is the quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India and what is the quantity lying in open for over a year; and

(c) what is the quantity of foodgrains damaged during the

last year due to poor storage facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Stocks of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India and State agencies in Punjab, as on 1-4-1986, was 79.19 lakh tonnes.

(b) The total quantity of foodgrains stored in Punjab by FCI, as on 31-3-1986, was 40.27 lakh tonnes, out of which 2.78 lakh tonnes was stored under Covered and Plinth storage. The exact quantity of stock lying continuously under CAP storage for more than one year is not available.

(c) No damages to foodgrains can be attributed to poor storage facilities in Punjab. However, during 1985-86, about 0.62 lakh tonnes of foodgrains got damaged in the process of procurement, storage and movement, by various factors like rains and floods which are beyond human control.

Purchase of gunny bags by the F.C.I. in Punjab

688. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the FCI in Punjab has recently purchased gunny bags weighing 900 grams against the prescribed standard of 1020 grams ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what was the price paid for such gunny bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Gunnies are purchased by the Food Corporation of India through the DGS & D under the Essential Commodities Act. The prescribed tare weight of bag is 1020 grams at a moisture regain percentage of 20. At times, some variations in weight take place on account of varying moisture content.

(b) Does not arise.

Child labour in match and handloom factories

689. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children continue to be employed in match factories and in handloom factories and are made to work for long hours in unhygienic conditions ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken by Government to effectively check this illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The Employment of Children Act, 1938, *inter-alia*, bans the employment of children below the age of 14 years in the manufacture of matches and in the weaving of cloth. The Factories Act, 1948, also prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory. Enforcement of the provisions of the Employment of Children Act, 1938 and the Factories Act, 1948, in the match and weaving industries is the responsibility of the State Government. The Employment of Children Act was amended in 1985 to make the penalties for violation of its provisions more stringent. The Central Government has been addressing the State Governments from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of the laws/ legal provisions relating to child labour.